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SUBJECT: SOUTHEAST TURKEY PRESS SUMMARY FOR OCTOBER 17, 2006

This is the Southeastern Turkey press summary for October 17, 2006. Please note that Turkish press reports often contain errors or exaggerations; AmConsulate Adana does not vouch for the accuracy of the reports summarized here.

#### POLITICAL

13. BOLGE / EKSPRES: Mustafa Attaroglu, Chairperson of AKP in Adana, said that French Parliament, by adopting the law making it a crime to deny "Armenian genocide", has been "tainted."

13. BOLGE: Recai Kutan, National Chairperson of Saadet Party (Happiness Party), will pay a visit to Adana today.

14. BOLGE / EKSPRES: Eric Green, U.S. Consul in Adana, paid a visit to the Eastern Mediterranean Olive Union and learned about olive production in Turkey.

15. BOLGE: A suspected bag left nearby Inonu Park located in the city center of Adana alarmed the police. The police safely detonated the bag and found out that it was not a bomb.

16. OZGUR GUNDEM: Prosecutor's Office in Sanliurfa started an investigation against September 16 dated "Silent Demonstration" which was held in Sanliurfa to protest the September 12 bombing in Diyarbakir that killed ten people. The daily accuses the prosecutors who were not able to find the perpetrator(s) of the bombing to date.

17. SABAH (GUNEV): This week will reportedly decide whether the new mayor of Karatas district in Adana, who resigned from CHP and enrolled in the ranks of AKP recently, will be able to keep his seat or not.

#### SECURITY

18. OZGUR GUNDEM: The daily remonstrated with those members of intelligentsia, who extended support for the PKK's cease-fire, for remaining silent against the government which has not taken steps about the issue so far. The daily also complains that the Turkish military conducted 15 military operations in the last fifteen days since the declaration of the cease-fire. Four PKK members, five soldiers and a village guard were killed in the operations in the last 15 days.

19. OZGUR GUNDEM: The daily reports that Turkish Armed Forces have been periodically shelling two areas called Sate and Etrus in Hakkari's Cukurca district.

¶10. HURRIYET: Sirnak Governor's Office announced that security forces, who were patrolling an area in Sirnak's Uludere district on September 14, ran into a terrorist group, which reportedly responded to a halt warning with gunfire. One PKK terrorist was killed.

#### HUMAN RIGHTS

¶11. OZGUR GUNDEM: Diyarbakir Procesutor's Office initiated a lawsuit against 11 DTP members, including the provincial chairperson of DTP in Siirt, who went on a hunger strike in the party building of DTP in Siirt on an unspecified date to protest the confinement of Abdullah Ocalan in his prison cell.

#### CULTURE / SOCIETY

¶12. HURRIYET (CUKUROVA) / OZGUR GUNDEM: Relatives of a four-year-old child attempted to lynch a 14-year-old boy, who allegedly attempted to harass the four-year-old sexually in Sanliurfa's Viransehir district.

¶13. SABAH (GUNEY): Heavy rain showers affected life adversely in Adana and Mersin provinces. A boat in Mersin sank and one person was drowned in the sea.

#### GREEN